

ALEC TEMPLETON SEES FOR
AMERICA

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HOUSE FOR THE BLIND

¶ In the midst of darkness a blind, British pianist has built a bright and shining world which he shares with millions..

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Alec Templeton Sees for America

FIVE years ago when he arrived in America his name was invariably coupled with the identifying words, "blind, British pianist." Today he is simply Alec Templeton.

He has escaped that verbal straight-jacket and revealed himself as a unique musical genius. No one who knows him well would call him blind.

America has accepted Alec completely. Each year he travels some 50,000 miles up and down the nation spreading his musical gospel. He gives around 50 concerts a year and these are invariably sellouts.

He was voted one of the top ten air entertainers by radio editors. His list of published compositions grows impressively longer. His records grow in popularity. He commands astonishing fees, and his annual income exceeds by far that of the President.

High brows and low brows go for him. Main street and Man-

hattan alike respond to his spell. He has had long and successful runs on the National Barn Dance as well as in the exclusive Rainbow room. He has captivated 100,000 persons gathered at the annual Chicagoland Music Festival at Soldiers Field, Chicago. He is making a deep impact on the face of America.

With his own special kind of vision that ignores both time and space, Alec bridges the chasm between classical music and jazz, since he is a champion of both. It is only a slender thread that links these two music worlds together. But Alec expects it to grow and strengthen until a broad solid highway binds them together and makes them one.

Alec has shaped his unique world by developing to a prodigious measure his sense of hearing.

"I am eternally thankful," Alec tells you, "that I am blessed with a keen sense of hearing."

THE GOODWILL JOURNAL

Music has taken the place of my sense of sight—and in music I find color and shade, movement, rhythm and action."

Music is his great reality. More than performing and self-expression, music has become also recreation, conversation and argument, laughter and fun to him.

Music has guided him since his cradle days. When he was a baby near Cardiff, Wales, where his father was a farmer, his mother noticed that he was unusually sensitive to musical sounds.

At four he wrote his first composition — a lullaby. His mother used it to sing him to sleep. Alec had many music boxes as a child. He played them singly and thereby learned melody and harmony. He played them in groups and learned about discords and dissonance.

At five he began his formal studies. When the Templetons realized they had a genius on their hands, they resolved to move to London. Here he studied all aspects of music under the best teachers. He stud-

ied Braille to obtain his general education.

At twelve the Royal Academy of Music opened its doors and its staff began to predict a brilliant future. Following many engagements with the British Broadcasting Company, he toured Britain playing in leading music halls, then came to the attention of Jack Hylton, British showman and orchestra leader, who was at the crest of his popularity. When Hylton's company was engaged by the Standard Oil Company of Indiana to come to Chicago for a radio series, Alec came along and was soon captivating radio listeners in America. He liked it here so well that he has never returned to his homeland.

An authentic genius and a master showman, he has struck the heart of America squarely, with an impact that may be felt for many years to come.

But more than that, Alec Templeton has proved to be a man triumphant over fate . . . who, when he found he had no sight, learned to see with his mind and spirit.

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